A WEEK BEFORE SLEET'S MIS. CHIEF IS UNDONE.

Private Telegraph Messages in Many Di rections Likely to Be Delayed To-day - Don't Rely on the Telephone to Jersey-Snow Carting Extraordinary.

Normal telegraphic conditions between Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore and other Southern places will not be restored for fully a week, officials of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies said yesterday. Philadelphia was still entirely shut off yesterday from both telegraphic and telephonic connection with this city, but it was possible to reach Washington and Baltimore and the Southwestern towns by way of Chicago.

For the first time since the storm, business men will to-day experience the inconvenience arising from the broken-down system of lines to the South. Such interchange of market quotations as may get through will be late and the congestion of the Western wires, it was admitted yesterday by the companies, will prevent to a large extent the despatch or receipt of

private messages.

The principal trouble with the telegraph service is between this city and Philadelphia. There are so many poles down and the wires are so hopelessly broken and tangled that part of the Western Union system will have to be practically rebuilt. Ordinarily the Western Union has 300 wires between the two cities. There has been none since 8 o'clock on Friday night to either Philadelphia or Washington. Of the 200 wires ordinarily in use between here and Elizabeth only fifteen were in operation last night. Between here and Philadelphia over five hundred poles on the various lines were blown down in the northeast gale. Over one hundred poles were down between Trenton and Bristol.

The most serious loss so far as poles were concerned was that of the big spars on which the wires were carried across the lower end of Newark Bay. Every one of them was blown over and carried away with the tide. Wires became sheathed in cylinders of ice four and five inches in diameter and then broke and fell in such a tangle that thousands of dollars worth cannot be used again for telegraph purposes.

This was especially so in the streets of Jersey City and Philadelphia. In the suburbs of Philadelphia the wire is worth about its weight for junk. An official of the Western Union said last

night: "We have been very fortunate in having two holidays after the storm, for otherwise the business would have been very seriously clogged. By means of roundabout connection by way of Chicago we have been able to handle all Washington business. To-night we are able to attend to about half of the normal Sunday night business between New York and Philadelphia. We won't be able to handle anywhere near half of to-morrow's business though, although by to-morrow night a few of the direct wires to Philadelphia will be in operation again. It will be a week before we have normal conditions."

Thousands of men who have been sent out from the various centres were at work on the fallen wires yesterday, but the reports received here during the day stated that the wires were so thickly incrusted with ice as to make speedy progress impossible. The telephone systems in Brook-lyn, Staten Island and New Jersey, and in the northern part of Manhattan, are still almost entirely paralyzed. Forty-five sephattan alone in repairing the havor done to the telephone wires by the storm and it is expected that by to-morrow the full service in this city will be resumed. The storm caused no trouble downtown, where most of the lines are laid underground, but in the upper parts of the borough,

where the wires are strung over the house tops, great destruction was wrought.

Yesterday there were only three trunk lines working to districts beyond Newark, while only about 50 per cent. of the trunk lines this side of Newark were in working order. order. To-day it is expected that such pressure will be put upon these intact trunks that the companies will have to put in operation what is known as the "delay basis." This will mean that a man wishing to talk, for instance, with Newark will be asked to give his number and will then be told by the central that he will called up as soon as the line is open. e calls are kept in order at the exchange and attended to in regular turn. Generally speaking, it was said at the Cort-landt street main office yesterday, a delay of about half an hour would be involved. This state of things is likely to continue

This state of things is likely to continue for at least a week.

The fine weather yesterday brought a larger number of laborers and carts to the assistance of the Street Cleaning Department and Contractor Maillie than they have had since last Thursday, Fully 4,000 carts and 12,000 men were at work. The streets which will be traversed by Prince Henry during his stay in the city Prince Henry during his stay in the city were not only cleaned of snow but were also swept yesterday, while most of the thoroughfares in the dry goods and financial districts were also cleaned up. Since last Monday the contractor and the department have carted to the rivers 285,548 loads of snow representing the clearing of any

nent have carted to the rivers 285,346 loads of snow representing the clearing of an area of 428,673 cubic yards.

Contractor Maillie has discovered that he has been swindled by means of forgeries of tickets given to the truckmen. For every load of snow dumped into the river the carters get a ticket which they afterward care by the retrieve the carters get a ticket which they afterward care by the retrieve the carters get a ticket which they afterward care as the state of the care and the state of the care as the care ward cash at the rate in Manhattan of 34 cents each at the office of the contractor. Many truckmen sell their tickets to scalpers at a discount to avoid the delay involved in collecting their money. Late on Sat-urday night in a bunch of tickets presented by a scalper Mr. Maillie found several forged vouchers. Just how much he has been cheated out of the contractor cannot tell without examining the thousands of been cheated out of the contractor cannot tell without examining the thousands of tickets in his office, but he is inclined to think that the fraud had not been exten-sively practised before he discovered it.

sively practised before he discovered it. The city is protected from loss by its checking system of brass checks which cannot profitably be imitated.

So successful has been the employment of open freight cars on the New York Central Railroad for the removal of snow from the Canal and Hudson street districts that Dr. Woodbury, Commissioner of Street Cleaning, has been discussing with President H. H. Vreeland of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company the possibility of using the surface railroads for carrying away snow. Dr. Woodbury said yesterday that Mr. Vreeland was favorably inclined to the idea of introducing gondola cars for the removal of snow provided that they would not interfere with the passenger traffic. Mr. Vreeland has promised to give immediate consideration to the suggested that they wood by the consideration to the suggested that and Dr. Woodbury is bereful. traffic. Mr. Vreeland has promisely immediate consideration to the suggested immediate consideration is hopeful that by plan and Dr. Woodbury is hopeful that by next winter it will be put into practical

STATEN ISLAND STILL DARK. The Dangerous Tangle of Wires Not Yet Straightened Out.

The work of clearing away the tangle of wires and wreckage of trees which filled the streets of Staten Island after the storm was begun yesterday, but by no means completed, and again last night the streets of the island were in darkness and oil lamps and candles were at a premium in residences which had no gas connections.

No trolley cars were run for passenger day before these lines will be opened. The

all along the lines of the Staten Island Electric Company that the current could not have been turned on without endangering lives and property. The Midland company, whose tracks run through streets where there are few telephone or light wires, cleared the obstructions from the savings banks and trust companies increased greatly last year, says Frederick

SPARKS DID CAUSE HOTEL FIRE

SPARKS DID CAUSE HOTEL FIRE

Set of weights was installed some time ago in another runway, and the abandoned runway was practically an inflammable flue. It ran up the side of the saft next to the engine room, which is in the basement next to and north of the elevator shaft.

INVESTIGATION DISPROVES THE INCENDIARISM THEORY. where there are few telephone or light wires, cleared the obstructions from the line between Concord and St. George and cutting off the other sections turned on the current and by last evening had the tracks cleared from snow and ice so that cars could run.

current and by last evening had the tracks cleared from snow and ice so that cars could run.

Telegraphic connection with Manhattan was established during yesterday afternoon and Supt. Fairbanks of the telephone company, who worked all day with such help as he could secure, said last evening that he would have fifty linemen at work this morning and hoped to have the trunk lines and the wires in the business section of the island-in shape before to-night.

The regular service was fully restored upon the Rapid Transit ferry and upon the steam railroad lines yesterday and no further difficulty is anticipated.

The damage to the telegraph, telephone and electric lighting and railroad companies on Staten Island is roughly estimated at from \$70,000 to \$80,000, but the most serious damage is to the shade and fruit trees throughout the island. Every houseowner, and especially farmers and market gardeners, have sustained a loss in this direction which cannot be estimated and which will take years to replace.

TRIALS ON A TROLLEY LINE. Passengers Frightened Into the Alsle-A Man of Genius.

Trolleying in the suburbs in these days of snow, slush and wind ought to be classed with tobogganing and other exciting winter sports. If you don't believe it, tackle any suburbanite from Jersey or Long Island and ask his opinions.

There were not any trains running to or from Bath Beach the other morning. The road from the Union Depot at Thirtysixth street and Fifth avenue to the Bath Beach station was one tangle of broken trolley wires, some of them live, mixed in with branches of trees crusted with ice, banks of snow and slush and probably other things.

Things looked bad for the Washington's

Birthday crowd that wanted to get "in town" from Bensonhurst and Bath Beach. The suburbanites sent out couriers for trolleys, but the emissaries returned with the news that none was running. At last there came a man who owned stock in the Brooklyn Rapid Transit. He went to a telephone and did some talking with the result that a steam engine and two cars were sent down from the Union Depot.

The ride that the incoming suburbanites had was enough to turn hair gray. The path of the engine was a long fireworks show with dangling live wires throwing off flashes of light whose brilliancy fright-ened everybody into the aisles of the cars and kept them there until the forest region

was passed.
Only one trolley ran to Bath Beach after midnight Friday night, and it took the Eighty-sixth street route. The ice had frozen on the trolley wires so that the circuit was almost broken off. To accomplish anything in the way of gaining distance the motorman had to let his trolley melt the ice from the wire and thus get a start which would enable him to slide the

car along a few yards.

Finally, there came along a railroad inspector whose name ought to be handed down as that of a hero. His hands were almost frozen. He had lost his gloves. But he climbed up on the roof of the car, knocked out the trolley wheel and with his hands held the fork of the trolley against the wire.

his hands held the fork of the troney against the wire.

"Let her go!" he shouted.

The motorman "let her go." The sharp edges of the fork tore the ice from the wire in long strings and the car started ahead. The pyrotechnic display woke up Bath Beach and Dyker Heights people along the line, but the inspector stuck to the job to the end.

The motorman said he wouldn't have swapped jobs with the inspector for a

swapped jobs with the inspector for a castle in Florida. The passengers took

WEATHER BUREAU BULLETIN. Warning Against Ice Gorges and Danger-

ous Floods From Mountain Streams. WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.-The Weather Bureau issued the following special bulletin at 10:30 to-day:

Higher temperature is calculated to cause a general breaking up of ice in the mountain rivers and streams of Pennsylvania, western Maryland and West Virginia during the next two days, resulting in ice gorges in places and dangerous floods in low lying lands GARRIOTT, Forecast Official.

Damage on the Coast.

GALILEE, N. J., Feb. 23 .- At Low Moor damage to bulkheads in front of cottages is quite heavy. Mr. Scrymser's two jetties are a complete wreck. The bulkhead at St. Peter's Church at Galilee is partly gone. Mrs. Hester's bulkhead is partly gone. It had just been built at a cost of \$1,000. The storm has done a good deal of damage as far as Long Branch. The damage from Low Moor to Long Branch is estimated at \$25,000. The Life Saving station wires are down and all the wires of the Western Union and days to the Western Union and days are down and all the wires of the Western Union and days are down and days are down and days are down and days are down and days are down.

School Principal Dead in a Snewbank. LAUREL, Del., Feb. 23.-William Hegeman, principal of the Athaloo School, started to walk to his home, four miles distant on Friday evening and got lost in the snow drifts and perished. His body was found standing erect in a bank this

COULDN'T BEAR TO LIVE. General Agent Walter F. Howard Kills Himself in His Sister's House.

Walter F. Howard, 31 years old, general agent of the Clinton Wire Cloth Company of 76 Beekman street, this city, died on Saturday night at the house of his sister, Mrs. C. F. Randolph, at 185 North Ninth street, Newark, of the effects of a pistol wound in his head. He lived with his wife in East Orange, but on Friday last he went to the home of Prof. Randolph and was admitted by his sister, who saw that he was in a perturbed state of mind and prevailed upon him to go to bed. She then sent for Dr. S. W. Jones, who had been family physician since her brother

was a boy.
When Dr. Jones arrived he saw that the patient was suffering from mental strain and melancholia and after administering sedatives, beckened Mrs. Randolph out of the room and told her that it would be well to maintain a constant watch over her brother, as he was likely to take his own life. He had, in fact, hinted at suicide to the doctor several weeks before. While to the doctor several weeks before. While the doctor was talking Mrs. Howard arrived at the house in search of her husband, and an instant after she had been admitted a pistol shot was heard and the trio rushed into the bedroom. The pistol had set fire to the bed, and after putting the fire out, Dr. Jones turned his attention to Howard and found that his whole right side was paralyzed and that he had sent a bullet downward through his brain from a point over the ear.

er the ear. He lived until Saturday evening without recovering his senses. Papers in his pockets indicated financial troubles, which are supposed to have depressed his mind.

Entered Politics: Neglected Business: Killed Himself.

PATERSON, Feb. 23.-Charles A. Lyle, a newsdealer and politician, committed suicide last night at his home 474 Graham traffic upon any of the street railroad lines yesterday and it will probably be another day before these lines will be opened. The telephone and electric light wires are so hopelessly tangled up with the trolley wires to excess.

deeply interested in politics he neglected his business. He smoked cigarettes to excess.

Communication and another communication of the comm

savings banks and trust companies in-creased greatly last year, says Frederick E. Kilburn, State Superintendent of Banks, in his annual report. The increase in the resources of the savings banks was \$65 .-45,408, and of the trust companies \$171,-410,131. In the six years covering his incumbency of the office of Superintendent of Banks, the savings banks have gained \$348,486,043 in resources, or a larger amount than in the previous fourteen years, and the trust companies, \$576,763,598, which is nearly one and a half times their entire combined accumulations for all the years prior to 1896. That these stupendous increases have not been made at the expense of other banking corporations is evidenced by the fact that the national and State by the fact that the national and State discount banks in the State have increased their resources in the same time by about \$800,000,000. The present total assets of these three classes of institutions approximate \$4,000,000,000, over 40 per cent. of which has been accumulated in six years. The total amount deposited in the savings banks during the year was \$286,155,826, and the amount withdrawn, \$252,549,718. The former item is pearly \$18,000,000.

176. The former item is nearly \$18,000,000, and the latter, \$12,500,000 larger than in the previous year, making the net gain over the record for 1900, approximately \$5,500,000. The increase for the year in the amount reported due depositors, including interest credited, was \$67,176,219; with one exception the largest ever made in exception the largest ever made

one year.

The total resources of these institutions
The total resources of these institutions The total resources of these institutions Jan. 1, last, were \$1,131,561,624, which are itemized as \$1,014,305,857 due depositors, \$503,773 other liabilities, and \$116,754,-992 surplus on market values. The number of open accounts in the savings banks is 2,174,511, or 102,321 more than at the corresponding date in 1901, and a larger increase by 11,502 than appeared in 1900.

Regarding the trust companies the sta-

Regarding the trust companies the sta-tistics show an increase of \$1,975,000 in cap-ital, of \$11,076,087 in surplus and undivided ital, of \$11,076,087 in surplus and undivided profits, of nearly \$11,000,000 in gross earnings, of \$4,500,000 in interest paid to depositors, of \$1,250,000 paid for taxes, and of \$152,297,291, in loans on collaterals. The considerable decrease in surplus and the yet larger increase in undivided profits represent a curious shifting, which it has been intimated is due to a contention that under the United States Internal Revenue laws the latter is not taxable, while the former is. atter is not taxable, while the former is.

"I have ascertained," the Superintendent says, "that several trust companies in the State are holding or have held stocks in private corporations in excess of 10 per cent. of their capital, and in each case have directed the corporations to reduce their

directed the companies to reduce their holdings to an amount not to exceed 10 per cent. of their capital. Some companies however, contend that the law treats only of the investment of capital and deposits, and that, therefore, a company's surplus may be wholly invested in stocks of a private corporation. In several instances they have fortified this contention by opin-ions of eminent authorities. I suggest that the law be amended so as to make its meaning plain.

"Further reflection but strengthens my

conviction that the character of the business which a foreign trust company may transact within this State should be defined by statute within this State should be defined by statute and that some reasonable provision should be enacted for ascertaining whether such corporations transgress our laws. There should be a statutory requirement that no foreign trust company shall transact any business in New York without having first obtained from the Superintendent of Banks a license therefor, and that the Superin-tendent examine such companies at least tendent examine such companies at least annually, the cost of such examinations to be a charge against the company or com-

panies so examined."

The Superintendent again recommends legislation which will prevent moneyed men from using savings banks for investment purposes by limiting the amount which may be deposited in one or more banks.

FOR THE 3-PLATOON SYSTEM. Resolutions Passed in the Rev. Mr. Niles's Church Last Night.

The families of five policemen belonging to the Ralph avenue police station in Brooklyn are members of the Bush wick Avenue Reformed Church of which the Rev. Edward Niles is the pastor. Now that the three-platoon system has been abolished the five policemen have petitioned the Rev. Mr. Niles to give his suptoon system.

Mr. Niles, after making a patriotic address in this church last night on "Washington's Religion" ended it with an appeal to the congregation in favor of the police. He declared that under the present system the police were not only deprived of the society of their family but of going to church. He then referred to the five policemen's families belonging to his policemen's families belonging to his church and told how the policemen were anxious to attend church and had appealed to him to use his influence in bringing it about. At the conclusion of the address the following resolution was read:

We, the congregation of the Bushwick Avenue Reformed Church of Brooklyn, in patriotic service assembled, desire to bring before his Honor, Mayor Low, the following facts:

before his Honor, Mayor Low, the following facts:

Several families of our congregation are those of policemen. Their heads are unable to attend divine service under the present two-platoon system, although desiring so to do. These guardians of our city have little or no time for the enjoyment of their homes, for the care of thir children, for social pleasures, for the benefits offered by the church. Is it not detrimental to the morals of the police force that those who desire the help that the services of public worship are designed to give them, are thus deprived of these privileges?

We respectfully petition that your Honor carefully consider the advisability of making such change in the platoon system—now in force as will enable our policemen to perform their duties to their homes, to the development of their minds, to their spiritual uplifting.

DANCING FORBIDDEN.

Faculty of Cortland State Normal School

Thinks It Detrimental to School Work. BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Feb. 23.-Dancing has been forbidden at the Cortland State Normal School, and because they indulged in it thirty students have been threatened with expulsion. The faculty has decided that dancing, in some of its forms, is detrimental to school work and promotes an undesirable mixture of the sexes. This has met with the disapproval of many of the students and it was proposed to make a test case of it. Accordingly, Redmen's Hall in that village was rented and an or-chestra engaged for a ball. The affair proved very attractive to lovers of the terpsichorean art and the ball was well attended. The following day the fac-ulty learned the name of one of the girl students who were present, and, after a severe cross examination, obtained from her a list of thirty students who partici-pated. These were summoned to appear before the faculty and were severely rep-rimanded. They were required to make a pledge that they would in future abstain has met with the disapproval of many of rimanded. They were required to make a pledge that they would in future abstain from further dances while attending the State Normal School on the pain of ex-

BOXERS KILLED HIS SISTER. Now an Iowa Farmer Wants 830,000 of

Our Share of China's Indemnity. SIOUX CITY, Ia., Feb. 23.-Charles A. Anderson, a farmer of Whiting, Ia., has begun, through Attorney E. A. Smith, a determined effort to secure \$30,000 of the cash indemnity China must pay America. A claim for that sum was forwarded to the State Department at Washington to-day for the death of his sister, Hilda S. Anderson, who, with another sister, was killed by the Boxers in China during 1900. The other sister was a subject of Sweden and Norway, but Hilda Anderson took out nat-uralization papers at Rockford, Ill., just before she left in 1897 for China as a missionary for the Christian Alliance,

of Fire Chief Croker and Battalion Chief Ross that the fire in the hotel was first kindled in a little chamber in the bottom of the elevator shaft, where the big wheels on which the lifting and lowering cables turn go around.

expressed by the Chiefs when they made their first examination after the fire. But they then said that they could not see how the fire got into the bottom of that shaft. This was made plain yesterday.

SUCTION PIPE FROM THE ROOF. Everybody knows that when an elevator goes up and down a great suction is created in the shaft below it. In order to pre-vent this suction from retarding the movement of the elevator up and down, an air flue was built in the Park Avenue Hotel elevators, from roof to basement.

This pipe opened on the roof with a hooded arrangement like a ventilating pipe. At the basement the pipe entered the box at the bottom of the shaft in which the wheels turned. When the elevator was moving upward air was sucked down through this pipe into the box below and from this it rushed up through the holes through which the cables passed. The suction continued until the elevator stopped moving upward. When the elevator started down, the air was pushed down under the elevator and pushed back up the air flue again.

While the elevator was moving down a horizontal slit at the top of the shaft, hooded in such a way that rain and snow could be shut out, let in air which was sucked down into the vacuum above the car. There were openings from the air flue into the elevator shaft at other places than at the bottom for the purpose of equalizing pressure. These openings were all found to be unplugged yesterday with one exception. On one of the floors an opening had been plugged with a bundle of rags. CLEAR BOAD TO AN OIL-SOAKED BOX.

It was clear yesterday to all of the inrestigators that it was probable that out of the storm of cinders and sparks which whirled down on the hotel roof for almost two hours while the armory was burning some must have fallen around the hooded top of the elevator vacuum pipe. The suction into the hood was so strong that it was quite impossible to avoid the conclusion that many of them must have been drawn in. And the sparks, thus pulled down through the long tube, entered an oil-soaked box which had been there ever since the elevators were built.

District Attorney Jerome also thought that the suction at the slit at the top of the elevator shaft was enough to have pulled burning cinders in there, too, alhough shutting out snow and rain. In this Chief Croker and Battalion Chief Ross did not agree. Fire Marshal Freel devoted himself through most of the investigation to explaining how much he knew about

Chief Croker was the subject of some exceedingly uncomplimentary remarks from Mr. Jerome in the recent municipal campaign. Mr. Jerome had not at that time become acquainted with the Fire Chief. When the two men got to work together yesterday it soon became apparent that ney were getting very much in one another.

Their conversation became more and more affable and absorbing to them all the time, and when Fire Marshal Freel went away they sat down and had their heads together for nearly an hour. Chief Croker did not say what he thought of Mr. Jerome, but Mr. Jerome said he thought that Mr. Croker was one of the smartest men he had ever met.

MB. FREEL MUCH DISPLEASED. Mr. Jerome, Assistant District Attorney Sandford, Chief Hammond and McLellan of the county detectives arrived at the Park Avenue Hotel at about 10 o'clock yesterday morning. Chief Croker, Battalion Chief Ross and Fire Marshal Freel joined them a little later.

Freel had a talk with Chief Engineer Dan Mahoney of the hotel. Mr. Freel poked about from place to place in company with the engineer and he found a number of conditions which evidently did not please him. Pointing one out he said:

"Good God! look ahere, man, what do you mean by allowing this sort of thing to exist?" Mahoney's duty is to maintain sufficient steam to run the elevators and the other machinery of the hotel, as well as to heat the place. as to heat the place.
"Well, now" replied Mahoney, "I

"Well, now replied Manoney, "I think—"

"Hell and damnation!" exclaimed Mr. Freel, having seen something which interested him so that he didn't wait for the engineer to finish; "here's this. How are you going to account for it?"

"Well, I don't know that it's my—"
"Damn it, the top of this shaft's open," declared Freel, who had by this time got to the roof and found an opening into a ventilating tube leading to the bottom of

ventilating tube leading to the bottom of the elevator shaft. "Yes, it is," said Mahoney; "but it ain't—"

"See here, my man, you're talking to a man who can read the indication of a fire like you can a book. I know all about it," and Mr. Freel went away. PIFTEEN YEARS' GREASE AS FIRE FUEL.

The Jerome and Croker party made a umber of trips from top to bottom of the They examined the rooms and found hotel. They examined the rooms and found that the partitions between bed rooms were of lath and plaster instead of being of brick, like the thick walls of the hallways.

They went to the roof and descended to the basement and found that when they were in the upper part of the hotel it looked as if the fire had started there, and when they got to the bottom of the elevator shaft it looked as if the fire had started

shaft it looked as if the fire had started there. But the firemen seemed to think that it began at the bottom.

Between the bottom of the elevator shaft and the fourth floor there was little sign of any fire along the shaft. From the fourth floor up the indications were stronger as one ascended.

The little chamber in which the wheels run is at the bottom of the elevator shaft, its roof being of such height that the

run is at the bottom of the elevator shaft, its roof being of such height that the room is a cube. The roof acted as a support for the elevator car when it was down. This cube was sheathed with half-inch Georgia pine, oil soaked from the grease of the elevator machinery, which had dripped onto it for at least fifteen years. had dripped onto it for at least fifteen years.

The engineer said that he had been in the employ of the hotel since 1887 and that the sheathing was there when he came. It is now charred and nearly all burned away. Small tubes through the roof of the room permitted the passage of the cables. Alongside the north wall of the elevator shaft there was an abandoned runway for a counterweight of the elevator.

The runway was sheathed with the same kind of wood as that in the little cubic

INCENDIARISM ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

An Air Pipe From the Elevator Shaft to the Roef Sucked Het Cinders Into a Grease-Soaked Machinery Box at the Base—Moving Elevators Fanned the Flames—The Dead New Number 18

It was established yesterday to the satisfaction of the officers of the Fire Department and of District Attorney Jerome that the fire in the Park Avenue Hotel, which cost so many lives on Friday night, was not caused by an incendiary, and that, instead, it was caused by a spark or by many sparks from the fire in the Seventy-first Regiment Armory.

It was also established to the satisfaction of Fire Chief Croker and Battalion Chief The investigators believed that the run-

of the wood may be ascertained.

PIRE ESCAPES MIGHT NOT HAVE HELPED

Mr. Jerome also asked questions of some of the guests and of the policemen and the employees of the hotel as to how the victims of the fire met their deaths. It was explained that they rushed in the darkness and smoke for safety by means of the back stairways and were overcome by the smoke and fell unconscious, the flames reaching them as they lay. According to this explanation fire escapes would not have lessened the fatalities because exits by the stairs would naturally have been sought first.

Mahoney made the statement that the body of Mrs. Foster, the "Tombs Angel," who was killed, was found at the bottom of the north elevator shaft, badly burned. He said that it was believed that Mrs. Foster

said that it was believed that Mrs. Foster whose room was on the sixth floor, turned the wrong way when she left her room and ran into the elevator shaft through a door which had probably been left open or else had burned off.

PROPRIETOR A PITIABLE SIGHT. Besides the conferences between the firemen and the District Attorney, there were other conferences of a somewhat different nature going on in the lobby and the café of the hotel all the time. Proprietor Reed, with one or two of his assistants, and Robert Crandall, his lawyer, had a long talk with a number of insurance men and then there was a still longer talk between the lawyer and the proprietor.

Mr. Reed himself is a pitable-looking object. Before the fire he was a strikingly handsome man. When the excitement was quieting down at dawn, Dr. Archer, the surgeon and fire enthusiast, who had Besides the conferences between the fire-

was quieting down at dawn, Dr. Archer, the surgeon and fire enthusiast, who had been working like a city-paid surgeon all the morning over the burned and half-suffocated, grabbed Mr. Reed, whose face was badly burned all over the right side. With difficulty the proprietor was persuaded to submit to having his wounds dressed. As he was about the hotel yesterday his head was wrapped in yards of white cloth which held in place wads of cotten batting. Only one side of his nose was visible, and the tip of one end of his mostache and one of his eyes was covered. But he insisted on staying about and at-But he insisted on staying about and at-SILENT ABOUT NEW DISCLOSURES.

Mr. Reed declined to make any state-ment for publication about the light which had been shed upon the beginning of the fire. It was probably as new to him as it was to the firemen that the elevators were was to the fremen that the elevators were pistons of suction pumps pulling fire down into tinder boxes in the heart of the hotel.

Fire Commissioner Sturgis reached the hotel soon after noon and met Fire Marshal Freel by appointment. Mr. Freel was much quieter than he had been in the morning. He had a long talk with the Commissioner's accretary signer and the Commissioner's exerctary. sioner and the Commissioner's secretary, William Leary. While these three were together Building Commissioner Perez M. Stewart, with Chief Inspector O'Connor of Stewart, with Chief Inspector O'Connor of his bureau and his private secretary, were in another conference at the back of the café. After awhile Mr. Stewart heard that Mr. Sturgis was in the hotel and sought out somebody to introduce him to the Fire Commissioner. The two commissioners, with their secretaries, talked very earnestly for an hour across a table in the café. There seemed to be a difference of opinion between them as to the share of responsibility that rested on each for the condition of the Park Avenue Hotel as to fire escapes and fire-fighting appliances. and fire-fighting appliances.

MANY HOTELS WITHOUT FIRE ESCAPES It was learned after the conference, although all the parties to it refused to be interviewed, that Mr. Stewart is reluctant to say that he thinks the Park Avenue Hotelought to be equipped with fire escapes.

It is within the province of the Building Commissioner to order the construction but the law does not require fire escapes, except at the discretion of the Building Commissioner, in fireproof buildings equipped with fireproof stairways.

The stairways in the Park Avenue Hotel f fire escapes if he believes them necessary.

according to the building inspectors, were protected from top to bottom by brick fireproof walls. They were better guarded from fire, if the inspectors are correct, than any other hotel stairways in the city. With five such stairways, one at the front of the hotel and four at the back, it had ways been thought that fire escapes were

unnecessary.

If, in the judgment of the Building Commissioner, it is necessary for a hotel so safe-guarded by stairways as was the Park Avenue to have fire escapes, then he will be compelled to order fire escapes be a great many hotels and other he will be compelled to order fire escapes put upon a great many hotels and other buildings. There will have to be a gen-eral reform of the present rulings of the Building Bureau. Until Mr. Stewart has has had an opportunity of consulting with the Corporation Counsel, and has inquired a little further into the duties and powers his office, he will take no action and will not discuss the subject.

MORE ROBBERIES REPORTED. As was expected more robberies of the rooms of guests of the hotel during the fire were reported to the police yesterday. The information came through the Rev. Dr. W. H. Warren, pastor of the Central Baptist Church, who lived at the hotel and was generally known as the "hotel chaplein"

Dr. Warren called upon all of the seriously wounded at the hospitals yesterday and talked with those who were able to say anything. He learned that Miss Sophie Beach, who died yesterday, had been much exercised while she was being removed from the hotel and while she was at the hospital because a satchel belonging to her and con-

because a satcher belonging to her and containing \$700 was not found among the articles left in her room!

Dr. Warren was also told by William H. Hale of Williamsville, Mass., that he had been robbed of valuables amounting to \$5,000. Mr. Hale told the minister that he had never hefore perjected to put his he had never before neglected to put his revenue stamps and cash in the safe on his arrival at the hotel. But this night he took them to his room. No trace of them has been found there or elsewhere

in the hotel.

The family of Col. Alexander Pieper reported that the police had turned over to them a few cents in change as having been taken from Col. Piper's clothing be-fore his body was identified. The family say that they know he had on, just before his death, a gold watch given him by the officers of the Tenth Infantry, at the close of the Civil War. It was valued at \$500 and they think that there was also much cash in his pockets.

NO ORGANIZED GANG OF THIEVES.

On the other hand many guests of the hotel who returned to it for the first time yesterday discovered that money and jewelry and valuable papers which they had left scattered around their rooms in their flight were still there. It was reported that in some of the rooms, where doors had been open and people had been passing up and down the corridors ever since the fire, many valuables had remained untouched. Fifteen hundred dollars in a roll with a rubber band around it were roll with a rubber band around it were ound in a bureau. Jewelled pins were

found in a bureau. Jewelled pins were found everywhere.

These discoveries made the guests and the police certain that whatever pillaging was done in the hotel was done because thieves happened to be in the fire crowd, and to realize their opportunities when the hotel caught fire. It is not now believed by any one except Proprietor Reed that an organized gang of thieves went through the building.

The proprietor's theory of incendirelen

was further disproved yesterday by the discovery that though a barrel of lubricating oil had been broken open in the court outside the hotel and some of it was spilled all over the pavement of the court, it was, humanly speaking, impossible that any of this oil had found its way to the bottom of the elevator shaft.

The door from the court to the bottom of the elevator shaft was blocked with a great pile of metal settees, which are used around the fountain in the hotel court in summer. It took the firemen half an hour to remove these settees yesterday to get at the shaft. It is not credible in their view that incendiaries could have done that work, and then have covered done that work and then have covered up their tracks by undoing it. More-over the little wheel room under the elevator shaft was so well soaked with lubri-

the Morgue was discovered positively yesterday to be that of the missing Mrs. Boardman, wife of Dr. William S. Boardman of Tombs or the police court knew Mrs. Foster terday to be that of the missing Mrs. Board-

man, wife of Dr. William S. Boardman of Norwalk, Conn. It was identified by her niece, Miss Clemence Boardman, and by Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry, a friend.

Miss Broadman, who lives at 72 West Forty-fifth street, spent all Saturday searching the pospitals for her aunt. Yesterday she visited the Morgue again and, with the identity of the body.

Dr. Boardman himself is in Bellevue.

Bellevue.

Tombs or the police court knew Mrs. Foster and liked her.

Boys," she would say to them, "it's only a poor girl that has gone wrong, and you know that notoriety in her case will undo she will undo the property of instances she had her way. If, however, her pleadings were unavailing and she found that the circumstances of the particular case she was interested in these bad already come out, her

told of his wife's death.

Two of the fire sufferers who were at Believice Hospital recovered sufficiently yesterday to return to the hotel. They were Frank Everhardt, a broker, who was overcome by smoke, and Henry W. Livingston a salesman of Campvale, N. Y.

DUEL WITH ONE REVOLVER. Both Men Shot Seriously in a Struggle

for Its Possession. CUMBERLAND, Md., Feb. 23.-In a duel on North Mechanic street, this city, last night in which only one revolver figured, Robert Imel. of C. F. Imel & Co. 128 Sixth night in which only one revolver figured. Robert Imel, of C. F. Imel & Co., 126 Sixth by her kindness believed in her as in street, Pittsburg, Pa., who has been engaged in the lumber business at Parsons.

It is not even known how Mrs. Foster street, Pittsburg, Pa., who has been engaged in the lumber business at Parsons, W. Va., and Theodore Gant, colored, this this city, were shot, the former in the left breast and arm and the latter in the thigh.

The man had met a moment before and the latter in the thigh.

The man had met a moment before and the latter in the thigh.

breast and arm and the latter in the thigh.

The men had met a moment before and Imel, who had over \$100 with him, says he was attacked by Gant.

Both men were arrested and are at the hospital and refuse to talk about the row, which, according to persons nearby who were aroused by the din, was sharp. Only one revolver figured, and for this the men wrestled. The weapon was found soon after the men were arrested and three after the men were arrested and three cartridges had been discharged, representing the two wounds received by Inel and the one by Guant. Imel is desperately wounded.

HOUSE MADE INTO CHURCH. It Is for Roman Catholic Spanish-Ameri

that Mrs. Foster seemed to have had some premonition of an impending catastrophe Last Friday afternoon she visited the God's Providence Mission's Day Nursery at 330 Broome street, in which she was very much interested. She, who as a rule was so cheerful, seemed depressed, After leaving the Polace she returned and asked the cirildren to sing for her the hymn she liked best, "Lead Kindly Light."

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oremony but was to have been at the ceremony but was too fill to appear.

Mgr. Mooney, Vicar-General of the Archdiocese, was the celebrant of the solemn high mass and he was assisted by the Rev. Fathers Colton, Healey and Vuchar. The Rev. Father Darbois, the resident pastor, delivered the dedication address.

The church is in a remodelled dwelling house. At the services yesterday it was filled to the doors. The friends of the new church estimated that there are 6,000 Spanish-Americans Catholics in the city.



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ALL MOURN "TOMBS ANGEL."

REV. DR. HUNTINGTON PAYS A TRIBUTE TO MRS. FOSTER.

Many Newspaper Reporters Had Cause to Know the Value of Her Work and How Modest She Was About the Good She

Did - Always Shrank From Notoriety. At Grace Church, yesterday, the Rev. William R. Huntington, the rector, delivered a culogy of Mrs. Foster, the "Tombs Angel." His text was "I was in prison and ye came

unto me." He spoke as follows:

in their tracks by undoing it. Moreover the little wheel room under the elevator shaft was so well soaked with lost of the court of the wood.

It was suggested that the barrel of oil had been broken open by a fireman or sundered into the wood.

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It was suggested that the barrel of oil had been broken open by a fireman or sundered the court drain out of the way of the fire.

LESSON FROM A SMALLER FIRE.

As showing how far the sparks from the armony were capable of doing damage, the experience of E. J. Syrmes, a building the fire on Saturday morning his welf was watching the sparks and chunks of glowing on the roof of the shep behind the house.

The shop was filled with wood and shavings. After a while it faired up. Mr. Byrnes's horse, which was stabled under the shop, was sufficated.

The shop was filled with wood and shavings. After a while it faired up. Mr. Byrnes's horse, which was stabled under the slope, was sufficated to the park Acenue Hotel fire. The Byrnes's horse, which was stabled under the slope was sufficiented than it was. But because of the rise of the fire in it did only trifling damage. The great hotel was neglected because of its room of either A or C company, which drifled there on Friday right. The building was hore of the park Avenue Hotel fire. The Byrnes's Regiment Armory, it was found that there were no electric light wires in the Seventy-Fire and because of the rise of the stable of the hotel who as is known, the fire started in the room of either A or C company, which drifled there on Friday right. The building was hore of the park of the started in the various company rooms, with that in the brigade and regiments he adout the head and begin to the started of the building was shown of th

stances of the particular case she was interested in there had already come out, her next anxiety concerned the mentioning her name.
"It will interfere with my work," she would

"It will interfere with my work," she would complain. And her work was at the heart of all her thoughts.

Other men and women have striven along the same lines, some of them with nearly as much success, but very few of them have been able to impress every-body with their disinterestedness to such an extent as Mrs. Foster did. Not only did the Judges and Magistrates believe in her, but she also gained the complete confidence of a much more sceptical class of men, namely the court and prison at-

the when mother was not engaged in some charitable work or another."

It seems, however, that her attention was first directed toward the prisoners in the Tombs and other court prisons through her membership in a prison association formed by the Archdeacoury Committee of the Calvary Enjascenal Church

her membership in a prison association formed by the Archdeaconry Committee of the Calvary Episcopal Church.

One of the best-known instances of her work was in behalf of Maria Barberi, a young Italian girl who was convicted of murdering her sweetheart. Mrs. Foster followed her to Sing Sing and spent two nights with her in the death cell. Finally, her efforts procured a new trial for the girl, which resulted in an acquittal.

At Grace Church it was said last night that Mrs. Foster seemed to have had some premonition of an impending catastrophe

place to-merrow morning at 9 o'clock in the Calvary Church, Twenty-first street and Fourth avenue. The burial will be in the family plot at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The Weather.

The last of the storm from the southwest was passing northeastward over the north Atlantic ocean yesterday, followed by slowly rising pressure and fair weather over nearly all the eastern part of the country, with unsettled conditions and favorable for clearing weather in the New

and favorable for clearing weather in the New England States.

The pressure was rising in the Central States, but was lower over the Lake regions.

The temperature showed a general rise in nearly all districts, and essocially from the Lake regions and Onto Vailey eastward over the Middle Atlantic States where it was close to the freezing point, and in some places above freezing in the alternation.

In this city all trace of the storm was lost, The day opened bright and fet, becoming gradually warmer, light to fresh northwesterly winds; average hundlity, 52 per neat: barameter, corrected to read to sea livel, at 8 A.M. 2008, 3 P.M. 2000.

The temperature as recorded by the of-The temperature as recorded by the of-ficial thermometer, and also by THE SUN'S thermometer at the street level, is shown in the an

WASHINGTON FOURCAST FOR TO DAY AND TO-MORNINWA

For eastern New York, four and warmer to day; Increasing cloudiness and probably cain in extreme south paraon to marrow; light variable winds. For New England, Jair to day and probably

to morrow; slowly rising temperature to day; light variable winds, mostly south. For eastern Praiss transa, fair to day and warmer in participation; increasing cloudiness and proba-bly ralls to morrow in the afternoon or at night; light variable whols.

For New Jersey, Delaware, the District of Columbia and Maryland, talt to day Increasing cloudiness to morrow, probably rain by night; light variable winds.

For western New York, partly cloudy to day

and to-morrow; rising temperature to day, variable winds, mostly light to fresh west.